

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments together with the cited references have been carefully studied. Favorable reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 15-17, 22, 24, 25, 27-33, 35-47, and 53-56 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 15-17, 22, 24, 25, 27-33, 35-47, 53, 55, 56 have been rejected. Claims 1-52 and 55-56 have been canceled. No claims have been amended. Claims presently active are claims 53 and 54.

Claim 54 has been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 15-17, 22, 24, 25, 27-33, 35-39, 40-42, 43-47, and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatwar (US 2004/0058193). Examiner has noted that this reference has a common inventor with the instant application and indicated that based upon the earlier effective US filing date that it constitutes prior art only under 35 USC 102(e).

However, Hatwar '193 has been abandoned as of June 9, 2006. As such, it can only be a reference under 35 USC 102(a). The US publication date of Hatwar '193 is March 25, 2004. The filing date of the instant application was March 16, 2004. Hatwar '193 is not a reference under 35 102(a). In view of the above, the rejection of claim 53 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 15-17, 22, 43, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hatwar et al. (US 2005/0147844). Claims 1, 15-17, 22, 43, and 44 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 15-17, 22, 24, 25, 27-33, 41, 42, 46, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura et al. (US 45,503,910) in view of Sato et al. (JP 04-335087) in further view of Hoag et al. (US 2003/0201415). Claims 1, 15-17, 22, 24, 25, 27-33, 41, 42, 46, and 47 are cancelled.

Claims 35-40, 43, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura et al. (US 45,503,910) in view of Sato et al. (JP 04-335087) in further view of Hoag et al. (US 2003/0201415) and Kobori et al. (US 6,285,039). Claims 35-40, 43, and 44 are cancelled.

Claims 55 and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura et al. (US 45,503,910) in view of Sato et al. (JP 04-

335087) in further view of Hoag et al. (US 2003/0201415) and Ottermann et al. (US 2003/0193286). Claims 55 and 56 are cancelled.

Claim 45 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura et al. (US 45,503,910) in view of Sato et al. (JP 04-335087) in further view of Hoag et al. (US 2003/0201415) in further view of Yamauchi et al. (US 5,640,067). Claim 45 is cancelled.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, remaining claim 53 is now deemed allowable along with claim 54, which the Examiner has already deemed allowable, and such favorable action is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond L. Owens', is written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.